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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Committee on Shipping
Working Group on International Shipping Legislation
Twelfth session
Geneva, 22 October 1990
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda, annotations to the provisional agenda, suggestions for the organization of work

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Charter parties

4. Provisional agenda and date of the thirteenth session of the Working Group

5. Other business

6. Adoption of the report of the Working Group to the Committee on Shipping.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

1. According to the rules of procedure of the Committee on Shipping, which apply as appropriate to the proceedings of the Working Group, 1/ the Group shall, at the commencement of the first meeting of the session, elect its officers, who shall constitute the Bureau of the Working Group. 2/

2. In accordance with resolution 40 (IX) of the Committee on Shipping, as from the seventh session of the Working Group, the members of the Group shall be the members of the Committee. Since that session, the Group has consequently elected a Bureau of similar size and constitution to that of the Committee on Shipping: a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. In accordance with the cycle of rotation for the Committee on Shipping, which the Working Group agreed to follow at its first session, 1/ the Chairman of the Working Group for the twelfth session (the fifth of a seven session cycle) is to be elected from among the representatives of members of Group A (Africa) and the Rapporteur from Group B. One Vice-Chairman is to be elected from Group B, one from Group D and three from Groups A and C combined.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. The draft provisional agenda for the twelfth session, submitted to the Working Group for consideration at its eleventh session, includes the subject of charter parties. 3/ The Committee on Shipping, at its thirteenth session, agreed that, at its twelfth session, the Working Group should take up the subject of charter parties. 4/

4. In accordance with previous practice, it is assumed to be the wish of the Working Group that, after a brief meeting of the Working Group as a whole to elect its officers and adopt its agenda, the Working Group will constitute a subgroup of experts to deal with the substantive work on charter parties. Of the seven working days available to the Group, it is proposed that six days be devoted to the consideration of the substantive item and that, on the last working day of the session, the Working Group as a whole should meet to consider the work of its subgroup of experts and to adopt the report of the Working Group.

5. In constituting the subgroup of experts, the Working Group will no doubt wish to follow the same procedures as were established at its seventh session for the first Subgroup. 5/

6. After adopting its agenda, the Working Group may wish, in the light of the above, to take decisions concerning the organization of its work. Section III of this note contains suggestions in that connection.

Item 3: Charter parties

7. Resolution 7 (III) of the Committee on Shipping which established the Working Group on International Shipping Legislation (WGISL), recommended that the Working Group should include, inter alia, the subject of charter parties in its work programme.

8. At its first session held in 1969, the Working Group adopted its work programme including the subject of charter parties. At its fourth session the Working Group considered the subject of charter parties and requested the secretariat to carry out further studies in order to enable the Group to take the appropriate action. 6/ The consideration of the subject was nevertheless postponed while the subject of marine insurance and maritime liens and mortgages were examined.

9. The Committee on Shipping at its tenth session adopted resolution 49 (X) in which it amended the work programme of the Working Group and included the subject of charter parties.

10. At its thirteenth session the Committee on Shipping approved, by resolution 61 (XIII), the convening of the twelfth session of the Working Group to be scheduled in the later part of 1989 to take up the subject of charter parties. The twelfth session of the Working Group had to be postponed until October 1990 in order to allow the secretariat to prepare the necessary documentation.

11. To assist the Working Group in its consideration of the subject, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a report entitled "Charter parties - A comparative analysis" (TD/B/C.4/ISL/55).

Item 4: Provisional agenda and date of the thirteenth session of the Working Group

12. In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the main Committees of the Board, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD will submit, during the twelfth session of the Working Group, a draft provisional agenda for the thirteenth session.

Item 5: Other business

Item 6: Adoption of the report of the Working Group to the Committee on Shipping

13. The report of the Working Group will be considered by the Committee on Shipping at its fifteenth session.

III. SUGGESTION FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK

14. The Working Group has seven working days, from 22 to 30 October 1990, in which to complete its work. The morning of the first day, 22 October, is to be devoted to a meeting of the Group as a whole in order to elect its officers, adopt its agenda and organize its work for the session. The tentative schedule below has been drawn up on the basis of the suggestion made above that a subgroup of experts on charter parties be constituted to carry out the substantive work. It is accordingly suggested that the subgroup of experts commence its work in the afternoon of 22 October. On 30 October, the last day of the session, the Working Group as a whole should meet to assess the work of its subgroup and to adopt the report of the Working Group.

READEX

15. Throughout the sessions, facilities will be available for morning and afternoon meetings, with interpretation. It is suggested that, as a rule, meetings in the morning be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. In the afternoon, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Limited facilities for meetings of regional groups will be available from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Informal consultations may be held during part of the morning of 22 October, before the opening of the session, and facilities for such meetings will be available on request.

16. It would help to expedite proceedings if any written proposals are submitted as early as possible in the session.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

First week:		
Monday, 22 October 1990	a.m.	Plenary of the Working Group
		Item 1: Election of officers
		Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	p.m.	Subgroup of experts
		Item 3: Charter parties
Tuesday, 23 October	a.m./p.m.	Idem
Wednesday, 24 October	a.m./p.m.	Idem
Thursday, 25 October	a.m./p.m.	Idem
Friday, 26 October	a.m./p.m.	Idem
Second week:		
Monday, 29 October	a.m./p.m.	Idem
Tuesday, 30 October	a.m./p.m.	Plenary of the Working Group
		Item 3: Charter parties
		Item 4: Provisional agenda and the date of the thirteenth session of the Working Group
		Item 5: Other business
		Item 6: Adoption of the report of the Working Group to the Committee on Shipping.

Notes

1/ See TD/B/289 - TD/B/C.4/ISL/4, paragraph 41.

2/ See rule 18 and rule 63, paragraph 2 of the rules of procedure of the main Committees of the Board (TD/B/740).

3/ See TD/B/295 - TD/B/C.4/ISL/53, annex II.

4/ See report of the Committee on Shipping on its thirteenth session, resolution 61 (XIII), paragraph 14.

5/ See TD/B/C.4/219 - TD/B/C.4/ISL/32, paragraph 40.

6/ See TD/B/C.4/126 - TD/B/C.4/ISL/17, paragraph 46.